

# Sources 7



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# Archaeology and the Internet

The sight of yet another article about the wonders of the Internet makes me groan. I have been involved with the development of this new-age thing for most of my professional life. Even so, I find the flights of fancy and the revolutionary fervour a bit tiring. Let us take a look at what the Internet can do now. We can safely assume that whatever it does, it will do it a good deal cheaper by the end of year 2000.

For a start, all the slides I showed on the Powerpoint presentation I gave on this subject at the Archaeology Study Day at Bristol in November were taken directly from the web. How that was done, and it was a very quick and easy process, can be discovered by writing to me at [tom.holloway@u3a.org.uk](mailto:tom.holloway@u3a.org.uk). I will respond with a one-page procedure plus a CD with the Powerpoint presentation - but you then owe me a pound or a pint when we meet.

The web, you will already know from countless articles, is rather like an enormous compilation CD, treacle-slow at times. It is available, virtually free, for anyone to place their information on it, good and bad, and also available for all to browse through it. There are three things that make it significantly different from going to a library, and it would need to be a very big and well-indexed library to provide the wealth of information on the web.

Firstly, there is the availability of the latest information. For example, one of my pet periods is the XVIII Dynasty of Egypt - yes, Nefertiti, Akhnaten, Tutankhamun, and all that stuff about missing mummies and desecrated tombs. I am able, via an email discussion list, to eavesdrop on conversations between academics and researchers into all aspects of this period, the latest finds, the newest theories and even the tetchy squabbles about how priests starched their linen kilts and what their substance-abuse preferences were. Alcohol or smoked catnip?

Secondly, there is the extraordinary wealth of 3D reconstructions available. Every age and every organisation seems to be represented. The latest finds are now quickly reconstructed and placed for all to see. Here are some I have found and more are being added every week:-

a 3D fly-through of a reconstruction of Housesteads Roman Fort

a 3D model of a Viking Farm

a 3D model of London Bridge in the 17th Century

a 3D reconstruction of a World War One trench encampment

a 3D fly-through of the tomb of Ramses the Great's sons, all 100 of them

a walk-through of Mohenjo-daro

Thirdly, there is the fact that, with a little practice, powerful search engines will find the most obscure and trifling reference for you: how to make an Elizabethan farthingale, ancient Roman recipes, full versions of long-lost favourite poems, how to knap a flint, or phone numbers for your local archaeology experts. And all of this for fivepence a minute, or 2p a minute at weekends. It can't be bad!

Finally, there is now an archaeology discussion list specifically for U3A members who want to get in touch with each other. Its address is [archaeology@u3a.org.uk](mailto:archaeology@u3a.org.uk) and if you would like to know more about it, please email me at my address above. Now try these websites:

The Theban Mapping Project has special areas for the Valley of the Kings and other current digs – [www.kv5.com/intro.html](http://www.kv5.com/intro.html)

BBC Education has a brilliant site –

[www.bbc.co.uk/education/history/3d.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/history/3d.shtml)

Elizabethan underpinnings? Mediaeval Russian dress? 16th Century Irish dress? Tudor hats and knick-knacks? (patterns for these too) –

[www.dnaco.net/~aleed/corsets/general.html](http://www.dnaco.net/~aleed/corsets/general.html)

Ancient Sites is a rather mind-boggling Bulletin Board where you can exchange news and views with all manner of people from all manner of civilizations; be prepared for surprises –

[www.ancientsites.com](http://www.ancientsites.com)

*Tom Holloway,  
U3A Information Technology Committee*

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## **Archaeology Study Day at Bristol**

Sixty U3A members participated in a worthwhile day at Bristol University last November. Pippa Smith, Wessex Archaeology (Salisbury) opened the day by explaining that there was much more to archaeology

than excavation. She spoke about recording and the contribution that can be made by amateurs. Workshops followed with the opportunity to attend three out of four on offer for thirty minutes. Pippa Smith's workshop was on bones. Rachel Seager-Smith, her assistant, showed samples of pottery, explaining methods of manufacture in Britain and abroad. Mark Corney, Bristol University, used slides to show how aerial photography and electronic detection methods can advance landscape archaeology.

Two presentations filled the afternoon. Roy Carnham, Wiltshire County Archaeologist, was concerned to preserve artefacts discovered at new building developments. Andrew Deathe, Curator of Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, stressed that museums are more than showcases. They are relevant to our lives today and can be made interesting for everyone from children to grandparents.

*Sophie Deakin-Smith*

*U3A Standing Committee for Education*

## **Industrial Archaeology**

Industrial archaeology is a branch of archaeology which concentrates on industry in the widest sense. Although we normally think of it as starting with the Industrial Revolution at the turn of the 17th century, industry in Britain goes back beyond Roman times. Reading U3A does not have an active archaeology group but several members belong to the Berkshire Industrial Archaeology Group which is centred in Reading and has meetings every month.

Industrial archaeology is the study of changes in industry including the recording, restoration and preservation of industrial sites and artefacts. The Berkshire Industrial Archaeology Group has restored a water wheel at a silk mill and a water pump at a National Trust property, which supplied the walled gardens of the big house in the 19th century.

We have helped to preserve a horse wheel at another National Trust property and dismantled a cast iron Reading Tramways urinal, both of which have been restored in open air museums. Recording projects undertaken include a brewery supplying ale on prescription to a local hospital at the turn of the century, two local iron foundries which made agricultural implements, a local village one-man bakery, and Reading Bus and Tramways Depot which has now made way for a new shopping precinct.

The Group runs a series of lectures during the winter at Reading University. During the summer trips are undertaken to parts of the country not normally visited by members. During one visit we travelled on a steam boat along the Kennet and Avon Canal and visited the pumping station at Cropton. Another visit was to the Stroud Valley in Gloucestershire where we had a conducted tour of the Stroudwater Canal and the mills along the valley.

*Dennis Johnson, Reading U3A*

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## Archaeology Groups

### Bridport U3A

Retirement provided the ideal opportunity to expand my long interest in archaeology so I was keen to be part of such a study group when I joined the fledgeling Bridport U3A. That was in the autumn of 1997 and, somehow, by November I found myself leading the first meeting in my home. Since then we have met on a monthly basis and shared a wide range of learning. Our meetings last one and a half hours, beginning with minimal business matters and an update on any archaeological items spotted locally, nationally and sometimes from further afield. I may give an illustrated talk but members of the group also share their holiday and study experiences.

In the early days members were invited to do brief homework and to contribute their discoveries at the next meeting. We have enjoyed six outings, ranging from museum visits to conducted site tours by local archaeologists. Due to lack of space our numbers are limited to a small and enthusiastic group but we do not wish to change the ambience and atmosphere by moving into a public building.

It has been helpful to meet members of other archaeological study groups and to hear how they are organised and taught. My slide collection is growing and may be of interest to others. Plans are being made for future outings in our area which is rich with archaeological and learning resources.

*Janet Weatherly*

"An archaeologist is the best husband any woman can have; the older she gets, the more interested he is in her."

attributed to Agatha Christie, who was married to an archaeologist

### Salisbury U3A

Having once been an active archaeological volunteer and when interest was shown in an archaeology course in our U3A, I felt that here at last was the subject in which I could make my own contribution. Four years ago I began what has remained a structured course with more or less formal lectures.

As prospective students' interests were initially so diverse and my knowledge was so limited, the first

course was run as a general introduction to the subject. It consisted of ten morning sessions of two hours held fortnightly. The subject matter it covered, liberally sprinkled with examples from past reading, my own experience and contemporary reports in the general and specialist media, was as follows:

- a history of archaeology and the development of techniques
- field archaeology: identification and survey of sites
- excavation: planning, conduct and recording
- relative and absolute dating
- reporting and drawing conclusions
- presenting and preserving finds and sites

Three field trips were arranged to Wessex Archaeology laboratories, an excavation in progress and a previously excavated site with its associated museum exhibits.

Four years later, the talks are now heavily reliant on slides and videos, mostly obtained from universities and educational suppliers, but now

backed by many hundreds of slides that I have taken myself on visits and holidays and during my renewed activity as a volunteer excavator. The format has changed very little; it is still "An Introduction to Archaeology" with the same subject matter, although with more detail, and the illustrative examples have changed with each course to cover a variety of periods and cultures. The sites visited also change each year.

So, too, should the 24 students, but the changes made from course to course are enough to ensure that two or three members return each year. A charge of £4.00 per member each year is made to pay for a meeting-room, slides, videos and handouts.

*Roger Ayres*

## **Forest of Dean U3A**

The 'Ologies' group continues with a good attendance of members. One strand is a slide show/lecture once a month from September to May, except December. The eight talks are on a chosen topic - this season's topic being "The Archaeology of the Near East and Mediterranean", mainly concerned with sites I have worked on during my studies as an archaeologist. The second strand is much more active. Every Wednesday morning a number of members meet with members of Dean Archaeological Group in

what is called "Coffee-Time Archaeology". This group undertakes a research project, involving studies of maps, publications, archive material and site visits.

Projects so far completed are:- field name studies, vernacular architecture, country houses, Iron Age sites, deserted settlements and, almost completed, "Moated Sites, Fishponds and Other Water Features". This last project is just awaiting new Sites and Monument Record Numbers to be allotted for the newly found sites, and then copies can be printed. Meanwhile, the group has turned its attention to "Named Wells" and a considerable number of these have been fully researched and located. As an indication of the success of this series of projects we have been asked by the county Sites and Monuments Record if we will attempt a research project on early castles in the Forest of Dean.

Access is of great importance to these research projects. We place a full record with the Local Studies Libraries both in the Forest of Dean at Cinderford and with the county at Gloucester. A detailed index is placed on Dean Archaeological Group's web site, and the same information is set on the Sites and Monuments Office data banks.

*Alf Webb*

### **Wokingham U3A**

Modern archaeologists study the material remains of past human life from its origins to the present day. They seek to understand better human cultures and behaviour. The Archaeology Group has the same objectives but the emphasis is very much on learning together for our mutual interest and enjoyment. We meet monthly for informal talks and visits to museums and sites. Since its foundation in May 1996 to the end of 1999 the group has progressed from pre-history, the first humans of some six million years ago, through the Iron Age and Roman period to the end of the Mediaeval period.

In 1997 we had talks on the Neanderthals, pre-historic Britain, local archaeology, Stonehenge and chiefdoms, forts and castles of South West Ireland, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. In addition we have had talks by experts at the Newbury Museum, the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology, and the Reading Museum. The group has visited the famous sites of Stonehenge, Winterbourne Barrow Cemetery, Woodhenge, Avebury and West Kennett Long Barrow, and been shown around excavations at Silchester.

In 1998 we had talks on the Roman Empire, mediaeval Reading, Meso-America, pre-historic tools, Egyptian art, and industrial archaeology, and visits to Wallingford, Reading and Guildford Museums, Silchester and Butser Iron Age Farm. In 1999 we had talks on Malta, remote surveying, Orkney, death in Ancient Egypt, Roman North Africa, Peru, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, and visits to Ufton Court, Silchester, Jordans, Chiltern Open Air Museum, Wessex Archaeology and Old Sarum.

In future we propose to return to the beginning of human life on earth, where we started nearly four years ago. This will benefit new members and enable original members to take a second look and

discuss recent theories. Throughout it has proved difficult to find speakers from within the group so the policy of finding expert speakers will continue. This can best be achieved at reasonable cost by making visits to museums and archaeological sites.

Since 1996 some sixty members have attended at one time or another, with an average attendance of about twenty-five. The group needs to purchase and produce slide packs, viewgraphs and copies of notes, send letters, make bookings, pay for speakers and visits, and hire a meeting room. A charge per meeting is made and a group fund established to cover these expenses.

I believe the group has had an enjoyable time learning something about archaeology and the different perspective it gives of human culture and behaviour.

*Alan Powell*

### **Perth U3A**

Our Archaeology Group was initiated in 1998, and since then more than thirty members have participated regularly in an introductory course on the archaeology of Scotland. We meet monthly, six times in the year. The 1998-9 programme included the mesolithic in Scotland, the earliest known hunter-gatherer-fisher populations in Scotland from around 8000BC, the Neolithic, the first farming people in Scotland, and the early Bronze Age.

In the current session we have already covered the later Bronze Age and the Iron Age in Scotland and we continue with discussion of the Romans in Scotland and the Picts. Slides of sites and artefacts illustrate our discussions. We have made field visits to local sites in Perthshire and to the Kilmartin valley in Argyll to see the rich assemblage of archaeological sites, the Interpretation Centre and Museum. *Isobel Hughes*

### **Plymouth U3A**

The Discovery Group explores topics mainly with a historical interest, including archaeology, architecture, social history and, currently, military history. The present topic is "Forts and Defences of the South West."

Plymouth is located in the centre of fortifications, developed over centuries, to protect homesteads and safe anchorages, and to deter invaders and bombing raids. The Royal Citadel of King Charles II, the ring of Palmerston forts and fine motte-and-bailey castles are some of the most obvious but Iron Age earthworks and crumbling concrete of 20th century defences are equally rewarding in their own way. Some sites are ruined, some overgrown with gorse and brambles, some on private land and some are grand presentations open to the public for a fee.

Members have decided to spend our meetings in site visits, enjoying active involvement in discovering

all aspects of the site with the aid of a simple leaflet based on research and an earlier visit and from the group leader. Complex discussions sometimes arise from details observed, reinforcing each other's learning, and, on World War II sites, from recollections of members bringing to life the somber concrete structures. None of us is a specialist but all contribute comments to interpret the historical, political, technological and observational interpretation. We hope to include neighbouring U3As in a coach outing to further afield but we share cars for visits outside the city area.. Those who attend regularly have already gained knowledge of the development of military architecture and a better understanding of the problems, both local and national, of defending our southern shores.

Plymouth has an excellent Local History Library, Local Records Office, Museum and Adult Education system. Exeter University's Archaeology Department reports on their many local excavations. The Landmark Trust and English Heritage provide material on the Palmerston forts for the amateur researcher.

The Discovering Group started in 1998 by exploring Plymouth (Drake's) and Devonport Leats. We compared the topography, technology and politics of the two structures which were built for similar reasons but under different constraints. When we have exhausted the supply of defensive sites we will change to another topic, richly endowed in this area, "Industrial Archaeology" or "Stone Constructions on Dartmoor."

*Susan Welsh*

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## **Classical Studies**

The purpose of a Classical Studies Network is to encourage interest in the Greek and Roman Classical World, its history, culture, languages and literature. Following my brief introductory talk at the National Conference, and my letter in *Third Age News* (Autumn 1999), I have received a most encouraging response. I have heard from U3A members who have, in their own words, more enthusiasm than knowledge, and would like suggestions on how to start.

One U3A has a small self-help group learning Ancient Greek. In another, two members are considering using the classical content of an Open University course as a starting point for a related local U3A group. I have also heard from U3As who have groups on Ancient History and the Ancient World, with a wide scope for classical subjects alongside others. My U3A group has enjoyed reading Greek Tragedy and other literature in translation.

Every U3A is different; what works for one may not work for another. As a mutual self-help organisation we can all learn from one another. I would welcome hearing from established groups as well as enquirers so that I can circulate a newsletter sometime in the next few months with as much information as possible. A brief information leaflet is available from me but please send a stamped

addressed envelope.

**Anne Grubb, 22 Hillside Road, Southall, Middx UB1 2PD**

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## **Ecce Archaeologici cum U3A**

Over forty years ago (some of you may just remember), Glyn Daniel remarked on the unexpected popularity of BBC programmes like *Animal, Vegetable, Mineral?* and *Buried Treasure*. "It is clear," he wrote in 1954, "that archaeology can now be put over successfully on television.....there is a large audience for it and.....endless possibilities for programmes." And how right he was. Many viewers reared on the long-running series *Chronicle* now watch Channel 4's *Time Team* with the younger generation.

In 1996 David Davies of Alton U3A ran a day school for potential archaeology group leaders. At least ten groups were formed as a result, and the number has now more than doubled and continues to grow. In the spring of 1997 Bournemouth University, in a memorable co-operative venture with U3A, organised a study day on the Romans in Britain. This was very much an experimental occasion, with no clear idea of what kind of response there might be. In the event, through the enthusiasm of a number of people from U3As across Southern England, the day proved very popular and was much oversubscribed.

The audience was welcomed by the organiser in Latin (it's interesting to note that even a new university like Bournemouth has adopted a Latin motto on its new coat of arms) which was followed by a programme of illustrated lectures, Roman food cooked to a recipe by Apicius, and a re-enactment by members of the Second Augustan Legion during the lunch hour in almost Mediterranean sunshine. A Roman legionary remained on duty all day to ensure the smooth running of things, and a Roman market, stocked by Fishbourne Roman Palace, sold replica coins and trinkets, which proved quite irresistible, together with more specialist items including academic publications on various aspects of Roman Britain.

The team of speakers was lead by Bill Putnam with Mark Corney (of *Time Team*). A combination of cutting edge scholarship and what might be described as lighter entertainment made a winning formula; and showing Monty Python's *Life of Brian* on video in the lunch hour, while not perhaps to everyone's

taste, provided much food for thought. "What have the Romans ever done for us?" – you may remember the scene when John Cleese was chairing a meeting of the People's Liberation Front of Judaea who found themselves having to admit that it was the Romans who brought roads, sanitation, education, justice – and good wine.

Two millennia later, the Romans have had quite an impact on U3A. Both the words 'university' and 'millennium' are, of course, of Latin origin. While the idea of a 'university' has continued to grow and

expand and can now happily accommodate those of us of first, second, third (and fourth?) ages, 'millennium' has provided us with some confusion, at least as regards its timing. We would not be in such a muddle about when it begins had not it been for the Romans who had no understanding of the zero. What is 2000 to us, was simply MM to them, with interesting consequences for the calendar.\*

Two more days on the Romans were held at Bournemouth in the spring of 1998 and 1999 and it is hoped that a trip to Roman Gaul might be organised. This year, on Thursday 13 April, there will be a fourth study day in the series, *New Light on Ancient Worlds: Neolithic and Bronze Age Wessex* (details available from me). We shall be going back a bit further in time and explore a period "when things really did happen", to quote Bill Putnam, Wessex in the first millennium BC. This was surely a world of *opus giganteum*..... great stone monuments and many other things to ponder in the light of the most recent findings in forensic and environmental archaeology.

For those members of U3As close enough to Bournemouth to attend evening meetings, the University offers a Tuesday series of open lectures on a wide variety of archaeological and related topics which have included the Queen of Sheba, ancient Alexandria, the Black Death, Anglo-Saxon gibbets and the Druids.

*Katherine Barker,  
School of Conservation Studies,  
Bournemouth University, Poole BH12 5BB  
(01202 595273)*

*\*It was latter-day Romans who gave us a problem about when a century or millennium actually starts. Not until Dennis, nicknamed Exiguus or 'the short', was asked to organise things in the sixth century did Anno Domini first give us a computational problem. He declared Christ to have been born on 25 December of Year One, meaning, of course, that the first decade was only 9 years long or the new century can never start until 01. Things might have been easier if Dennis E had properly understood Arabic numbering and given us the original BC/AD divide as 00-00-00 but he was a late Roman of the western Mediterranean to whom zero had no mathematical significance.*

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## **Economic Studies**

For the last ten years, I have been leading a group, teaching a class, - I do not know which is the most appropriate term - in economic studies. This course has been an attempt to open up basic economic theory to its participants with the objective of helping them to understand and look critically at the numerous economic statements and reports they encounter daily in the media. Over the years the title of the course has varied reflecting a changed emphasis but the underlying format has remained.

I have made no attempt to follow a curriculum aligned to any examination syllabus. That has seemed

quite inappropriate. The essential objective has been to provide an interest in economic and political events to the participants.

A basic difficulty with this approach has been the absence of any up to date source book which could serve as a text for these studies and I have been forced to construct my own which ranges from the economic history of Britain and the development of money, through some basic economic theory to a consideration of current economic problems as diverse as the balance of payments, the treatment of monopolies and membership of the single European currency.

A major problem has been to find the economic statistics to illustrate the points being covered and I have had to rely on my local public library and Government publications. More recently, the internet has begun to be a source of some information, particularly in relation to Treasury and Bank of England policy matters.

Attendance at these classes has not been large, on average perhaps around eight persons, but has been encouragingly active. Moreover, contrary to many preconceived ideas I have had enthusiastic female participation. As is inevitable in any discussion on economics, politics has raised its ugly head and I have not tried to avoid this. However, we have managed, so far, to avoid any heated exchanges between people holding opposing party political views!

*Arthur S. Nathan, Bournemouth U3A*

*A synopsis of Arthur Nathan's "text book" provides a basis for 30 sessions of one and a half hours each.*

## THE BRITISH ECONOMY

### 1. The Birth of Capitalism 1066 to 1815

The feudal system; mercantilism; poverty and slow economic development; the start of industrial capitalism and production; Adam Smith, Ricardo, Malthus; the labour theory of value; the Napoleonic Wars.

### 2. The Growth of Industrial Capitalism 1815 to 1914

The cotton industry; the Reform Act; roads and railways; the growth of the middle class; the Great Exhibition; Karl Marx, Utilitarianism, Jeremy Bentham, James Mill, J.S. Mill, Jevons, Walrus, Alfred Marshall; the expansion of the British economy; foreign competition and the Empire.

### 3. Britain in the Twentieth Century

The 1914/18 war; the slump of 1929; J.M.Keynes; the 1939/45 war; post-war developments; full employment and inflationary spiral; Milton Friedman; European Union.

#### 4. Money and the City

Means of exchange, coinage; development of banking; bank notes and the Bank of England; creation of credit; the money market, discount houses, Treasury Bills; Building Societies and the institutions; interaction of financial systems; present day functions of the Bank of England; control of interest rates; the Repo rate; Stock Exchange.

#### 5. Classical Economic Theory - Microeconomics

Supply and demand; the market system; free markets; non-market goods; the market in practice; business competition.

#### 6. Classical Economic Theory - Macroeconomics

Keynes and money flows; Milton Friedman and money supply; economic equilibrium; comparing the two theories.

#### 7. Gross Domestic Product

Calculation; British experience; international comparisons.

#### 8. Monopolies

US and UK legislation against monopoly; other views - von Mises, von Hayek, Kaldor and Balogh: oligopoly - Joan Robinson, control of monopolies, prices, profits, dividends, service: introducing competition.

#### 9. The Balance of Payments

Balance of Trade; Other financial transactions; official reserves; problems for the future.

#### 10. Exchange Rates

Desire for stability of exchange rates; gold standard; IMF and World Bank; floating exchanges; sterling into ERM; sterling out of ERM; experience of exchange rates.

#### 11. Inflation

The Retail Price Index; the effects of inflation; our experience of inflation; control of inflation.

#### 12. Unemployment

Classical theory of unemployment; types of unemployment; reducing unemployment; changes in employment patterns; employment of women;

relationship between inflation and unemployment - A.W.H Phillips; the "natural rate of unemployment"; anticipating inflation.

### 13. Government Finances

The Public Sector Borrowing Requirement; the Public Sector Net Borrowing; past experience; effects of government borrowing; transfer of burden across generations; government consumption.

### 14. Britain and Europe

The European Economic Community; Britain's entry; the Maastricht Treaty; the European Single Currency; the question of UK membership; the Common Agricultural Policy; expansion of EU membership.

### 15. Globalization of Finance and Trade

Mobility of money and impact on exchange rates; 1992 speculation against sterling; transnational corporations; weakened power of governments; capital flows; foreign

investment.

### 16. Economic Growth

Historical trends; reasons for growth; the UK since 1950; international comparisons; sustainable growth; future growth.

### 17. The Market system in practice.

The free market; rationing by the purse; requirements for free market; effectiveness of free market; market failure; Will Hutton's book "The State We're In"; other views;

alternative systems - USA, Japan.

### 18. Poverty in the UK

Definition - absolute, relative; effects of poverty; dealing with poverty - charity or fear; extent of poverty - data from "Social Trends"; impact of benefits; impact of taxation; price subsidies or controls; insurance; redistribution; measuring poverty - Lorenz curves, Gini coefficient.

### 19. The Third World

Comparisons - GDP per head, life expectancy, child population, family size; expanding production; natural resources; finding capital; importing capital; loans - interest and repayment; need for markets; aid - arms sales; agriculture; industrialisation.

## 20. A Summary and a look ahead

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For further resources on the economy see  
"Where can we get.....?" on page 15  
*Resource Centre News*

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## Science Groups

In SOURCES No.5 (August 1999) I mentioned that we had joined the Institute of Physics Schools and Colleges Affiliation Scheme in order to give U3A members the opportunity to use its resources. We have now made a similar arrangement with the Royal Society of Chemistry by joining its Schools and Colleges Publications Service.

Membership means we will automatically receive all publications and videos produced for the RSoC by its Education Department. We have received a video and book on Industrial Chemistry Case Studies and a similar set on Industrial Chemistry for Schools and Colleges, both available on loan from the Resource Centre. I can also provide copies of a list of chemistry lecturers recommended by the Society to those interested in booking outside speakers.

The RSoC has produced a small equipment pack and a book of experiments to use with it entitled *Microscale Chemistry*. We have two U3A science specialists assessing the pack to see if it could be used without problems by U3A groups in a member's home or a public room. If they recommend the pack I hope to be able to offer it to groups for purchase. They would not be expensive and might encourage groups who have been unable to run any chemistry experiments in the past to have a go! I hope to give more information on this in the next issue of SOURCES.

I am aware of several groups who are studying genetics. At their request I have recently acquired a teaching pack called *Genes and You*, two sets of slides on genetics and a video entitled *Cell Structures*.

## Natural History, Ornithology and Gardening

These subjects are very widely studied in the U3A and I have recently bought new videos on ornithology and gardening and sets of slides that could be used by natural history groups. I have new stock lists for

these subjects so if you would like a copy of any of them please contact me.

## **Geology**

Members studying geology will know of Isabel Markham , the Geology Network Co-ordinator. She has very kindly put together packs of rock samples with maps or notes which are available for loan. There are two identical sets of a china clay study and one set of specimens of rocks of Devon and Cornwall. These are small enough to send in the post although a little heavier in terms of postage than most of our stock! There are also some new slides and videos available for geology groups and some booklets on Rock Thin Sections produced by a U3A member. We will send a new stock list to anyone interested.

## **Psychology**

Very few groups in the U3A tackle this rather difficult subject but for those who do, or for those who might like to try a short course, we now have some videos from the American 'Thinking Allowed' collection. We have bought five which run for 90 minutes or more, made up of 30 minute programmes originally broadcast on the PBS (Public Broadcasting Service) channel. They cover such diverse subjects as:

exploring personal essence, the human dilemma, personal and social change, and so on. These videos have been chosen by a psychologist, who leads a group in the U3A, on the basis that they could also be of interest to groups studying philosophy, social studies or religion. If you would like more information, or to see them before deciding if you can use them with a group, please contact me.

## **Architecture, Archaeology and Travel**

The Resource Centre has about a hundred items relevant to architecture groups, including duplicate sets of slides covering the whole history of British architecture from Saxon times to the present day. We have videos on modern British and foreign architecture and architects, while to some groups our archaeology material may be of greater interest. At a recent meeting for history group leaders the point was made that architecture is often studied by history groups and there are groups who study art and architecture related to classical studies.

There is an obvious overlap with travel in this subject area because so many groups both study and visit relevant buildings or places as part of a course. Anyone travelling to Barcelona, for example, might like to use our Gaudi videos and slides either before or after a visit to learn more about the city. If you are travelling within Britain we have videos and slides on a number of interesting places that you might like to use in preparation for your trip. Often local tourist boards produce a video of their area. We have good videos of Cambridge and the Lake District, for example.

## **Building Works**

After a long delay work has now started in the National Office building and is already causing considerable disruption. To date we have had a flood, a fire, and a day without heating, light or computers when the builders damaged the power cables - and they are still only working on the basement! Heaven knows what it will be like when they start to create a new storey over our heads. Consequently if you experience problems leaving messages because the answerphones are not working, or find your post is slower arriving because some days we have no power to use the franking machines, please excuse us. Normal service will be resumed when the builders have finished and in the meantime, surrounded by noise, dust and vibration, we do the best we can in the circumstances.

*Elizabeth Gibson, Resource Centre Manager*

*U3A National Office, 26 Harrison Street, London WC1 8JG (020 7837 8838)*

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## Architecture

How a group studies architecture depends on how they define architecture and why they are interested. The classic approach of moving through architectural styles from Greek to Gothic is one way, but starting at your front door is just as valid. Expertise can come from many members of the group, be they builder, surveyor, photographer, artist or historian. Once it is accepted that architecture embraces colour, shape, position, setting, aspect, prospect, structure, economics and history, everyone can be involved. All of us have selected a new wallpaper, moved the furniture, moved house or even planted a garden but the experience is not considered to be architecture.

If anyone in your U3A walks just 500 yards north, south, east and west they will inevitably see changes in architecture. Many architectural terms are understood, like detached, terraced, dormer window, gable end, sash window, patio door, fanlight; they are just a part of everyday life. That is a good way to start thinking how much architecture, in the broadest of senses, plays in our lives. How many times have you been given directions like "turn right at the pub, when you come to a house with a green roof, the church with the spire comes first but just after the church that has a tower turn right etc. etc.

Architecture is all around and everyone "knows" what they like. It is an exercise in communication to start making your group express their views of the common place. Examples of buildings appear as part of most newspaper photographs and the property pages of both local and national newspapers give wide ranging examples of where people live. There is no need to know the detail of the top of columns, as Corinthian or Doric, but just to note the difference. Simple examples all around are easy starting points. Windows are everywhere and of every type, sash or casement, brick arched tops, key stones, stone lintels, brick and stone cills, bay windows in timber, stone or brick. Move on to doors and just consider the types of doors we pass through every week.

Many are afraid of plans and elevations but can understand maps and pictures. Try to get your group to

draw the plan of their house. You will be surprised by some of the results. Then talk about the differences between "semis" in the same street. Some have a "through room", while some have kept the two main rooms, and many will have extended their kitchens. Why are they changed? Do not ignore the spaces between the buildings. Look at the variety of front gardens in a street and how that changes the setting of the buildings. Talk around the siting of buildings, how Sydney Opera House is regularly featured with the harbour bridge and St Paul's Cathedral is shown hidden by other buildings or Edinburgh Castle includes its elevated position.

Look out for architect signboards on buildings under construction and ask if they might spare fifteen minutes to talk about their work. Visit housing developments where you can inspect plans and new homes, then relate their insides to their outsides. We all spend more time inside architecture than viewing it from the outside. Consider the changes to average housing in our lifetime, such as open fires, kitchen sinks, bathrooms, the height of rooms etc.etc.

The local planning department will provide notes on local listed buildings and may exhibit plans submitted for formal appraisal. Local newspapers regularly include controversial planning problems.

Once interest has been fostered it is easier to decide which parts of architecture are art and which science, and where landscape and town planning fit into the picture. Then a clearer idea will emerge of what we need to know to look at and understand architecture. The Resource Centre has several architectural videos and an increasing selection of slides, covering every style.

*John Lloyd, Wearside U3A*

**U3A members can now have a copy of SOURCES mailed to their homes. To apply, send your name and full address with postcode to SOURCES, U3A National Office, 26 Harrison Street, London WC1H 8JG.**

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## **U3A Travel Network**

The U3A Travel Network arranges cultural and educational tours on behalf of U3A members and is a subcommittee of the National Executive. Tours planned for the year 2000 include visits to Egypt, Turkey and China.

The tour of Egypt will visit the Pyramids, the Sphinx and the Egyptian Museum. It will go to Lake Nasser to see the lesser known temples of Kalabsha, Kast Ibrim, the Deir Temple of Rameses II and Abu Simbel. The finale is a cruise down the Nile visiting the temples of Kom Ombo, Karnak Edfu and the Valley of Kings. The trip to Turkey will explore Greek and pre-Greek archaeology and legend, visiting Troy to wonder at the Wooden Horse, King Croesus' throne and Ephesus. The tour of China will visit

the Great Wall, the tombs, the cities and rivers.

Educational tours of Europe emphasise the cultural history of each country. During a visit to Iceland we plan to see geysers, glacial waterfalls, lava fields, volcanic craters and fault lines in the tectonic plates. The original sites of traditional Icelandic sagas and the dramatic landscape of the Viking heritage, always inspirational to artists, are on the itinerary.

Paris will give an opportunity for a U3A party to visit the world famous galleries and museums, with pass included to avoid long queues. There will be time to look around the wonderful gardens and chateaux at Versailles, Fontainebleau, Pierrefonds, Chantilly and Giverny.

A two-centre tour of Italy, to Veneto and Emilia Romagna, will stay in Bassano and visit Padua, Verona, Vincenza, Asolo and Sabbioneta. This is an area rich in art treasures and magnificent architecture. The party will move to Bologna to visit Ravenna, Parma, Clossa Piacenza and Ferrara, more mediaeval towns with great architecture.

The U3A Travel Network is also considering a visit to Tuscany with the Puccini Opera Festival at Torre de Lago as the focus of a four night trip. The cost, flying from Gatwick, is expected to be about £550 (single supplement £50).

More information about these tours can be obtained from the U3A Travel Network liaison officer, Mike Bakall, 164 Stoughton Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6PQ (01483 855524). Enclose a stamped addressed envelope and receive the latest Newsletter.

### ***U3A Travel Network website***

Details of the educational tours planned by the small organising committee can be found on the [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) website. The Travel Network also has a simple means of exchanging information for all members of the U3A, including overseas members. There is no charge for using listserv. An e-mail to [listserv@u3a.org.uk](mailto:listserv@u3a.org.uk) to include your name and your U3A will provide the list of tours, or contact John Wariner, secretary of the Travel Network at [johnwariner@easynet.co.uk](mailto:johnwariner@easynet.co.uk).

### ***Opera in Provence***

Imagine a warm summer evening in Provence and a vast semi-circular bowl of seating, nearly 2000 years old, filled to the brim with 10,000 enthusiasts and *Norma* on the stage. The atmosphere is overwhelming. The seats may be made of stone and bum-numbing and the climb up the outside staircase reducing some to heart-pounding invalids, but it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and worth all the effort.

The train journey down to Provence was effortless and the hotel, probably the best in Avignon, is in the converted remains of a nunnery and full of character. Avignon, still in mid-festival mood, with street

entertainments, theatre and opera on offer, is a warmer version of Edinburgh. Add a sprinkling of Roman aquaducts and temples, a handful of cathedrals and some remains of the outstanding painters who made the region their home and you have a cornucopia of culture. Top this up with excellent food, fine wines and good company, then you will see that there is a lot to offer. We managed to raise twenty-nine on the last party to Provence.

*Mike Bakall*  
*Halesowen U3A*

Our Heritage and Travel group started as a "Historic Houses and Travel" group but this soon expanded to include the varied interests of our whole membership. Halesowen is ideally situated, almost in Worcestershire but on the edge of the Black Country and just outside the Birmingham City boundary. Birmingham has over 1800 listed buildings and an excellent museum and art gallery. The rich industrial heritage of the Black Country and the historic associations of Worcestershire provide endless interest.

Over the last five years we have visited the Rover factory, the Central Motorway Control Centre, Rugby School, Wightwick Manor, Powys Observatory and most of the major exhibitions at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. We have watched corn being stone ground and fibre glass baths being moulded.

Visits following talks by our members or an outside speaker are very popular, to Worcester Cathedral, Kenilworth Castle, Clun and Bishop's Castle for example. We go further afield and major excursions have included Cambridge, Cardiff, Lincoln and Winchcombe. For guided tours we try to contact local history societies. Their enthusiasm, affection and knowledge of their town adds to the enjoyment of the visit.

This year we plan to visit Kelmscott Manor and journey through history by following the course of the river Wye from Ross-on-Wye to Chepstow.

*Jean Kimberley*

## **Why Warsaw?**

*an insight into the history and culture of the Polish people*

The U3A Travel Network 10-day trip to Prague and Warsaw in April 1999 was unusual in three ways - for the musical events forming an integral part of the tour, for the highlight of the holiday being the close ties established with their respective U3As, and for the exceptionally small size of the group.

Before we six set off, many friends had regaled me with the delights of Prague. Indeed, in spite of unseasonably wintry weather, I was not disappointed. But from these same friends I had sensed the unspoken question: "Why Warsaw?" Cracow, yes, but Warsaw.....secretly, too, I had my doubts.

Of Prague I have many memories: the sight, on our arrival, of the skyline against a rare blue sky; that night of the comet from the deck of our hotel; the Castle Hill with its historic buildings and their treasures; the ornate high baroque churches; the Jewish quarter with its amazing cemetery; Charles Bridge, which we often crossed on foot; Wenceslas Square and, of course, the Old Town Square with its famous clock which duly performed for us. On the outskirts was Vysehrad with its old walls, church with brightly decorated neo-gothic interior and cemetery, where every Czech one had heard of was buried - Dvorak, Smetana, Capek and so on.

As for sounds, there was a feast of music on offer. We had a box for an unforgettable performance of Don Giovanni at the Estates Theatre, where it was first performed, also a delightful, if kitsch, "Evening with Mozart" at the atmospheric Villa Bertranka. Then, from among the many handbills collected, we selected a performance of Czech music by a wind sextet of the Music Academy at the Lichtenstein Palace.

Another indelible memory was being welcomed to his home by the indomitable figure of an 85 year old on crutches and with his hand and forearm encased in an amazing plaster edifice, the Chairman of the Prague U3A Club who had been involved in a car crash. Memorable, too, on that occasion were the spread his wife had prepared, and the earnest and impassioned speech by the founder of all their U3As.

Arriving in Warsaw, apart from the warm welcome at the airport from our ever-faithful U3A escorts, there was nothing to dispel my initial doubts. It was bitterly cold, with flurries of snow from a steely grey sky, and the 'communist brutal' architecture of the concrete blocks we passed was uniformly grey.

The first factor to dispel some of the doubts was the luxury of the Europejski Hotel and the quality of the food in its restaurant, reputed to be the best in town. But more important than material things was the spirit of the place. History was brought very much alive for us and many of the sights were intensely moving. Equally moving were the warmth and resilience of the people who were to become our friends.

Our first sight of the city had a particular poignancy as it was on the 19th April, the anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising. Appropriately we began our sightseeing in the completely destroyed ghetto area where its monument was aflame lit to commemorate the uprising. We saw the plaque on the entrance to the sewers and the sculpture in the Umschlagplatz, with its fallen trees, in memory of the gathering of Jews for departure to the concentration camps, and one of a railway truck with different types of crosses and railway sleepers as a memorial to slave labour.

We were shown also some remarkable film material at the Historical Museum, depicting the events of the war and the wholesale destruction of the city and contrasting it with the preceding days of peace. It was brought vividly home to us. It was against this background that we were able to appreciate more the meticulous work of reconstruction in Castle Square with the exact replicas of the Royal Castle and the lovely and colourful old houses opposite. It also made the few original buildings which had escaped, either by virtue of being German quarters, or further from the centre, like the Lazienkowski summer

residence of the King and Wilanov Palace, seem very special.

After the first day with its lightning conducted tour of the main sights and the evening concert by the Warsaw Philharmonic, nearly all our activities were in conjunction with members of Warsaw U3A.

On the Sunday our friends called for us, squeezed us into two cars and drove us out into the country to Chopin's birthplace. This was very attractive and situated in a lovely park. The sun came out for us and we were able to enjoy it with strains of Chopin wafting over us. We were then taken to lunch at a rustic style restaurant and to a church and museum devoted to a local saint. We drove back through a blinding snowstorm, stopping off to see an impressive modern church.

The following day we were taken to the Medical Centre where their U3A meets. There we met Dr. Schwartz, their Chairman, and her assistant, together with the tutor and members of their English groups. We exchanged notes about our respective programmes and each member of the class talked a little about themselves. Again it was amazing to hear quite casual references to being in Ravensbruck or Siberia.

We then walked to the PE College where we shared their canteen lunch, followed by watching their shared Monday activities back at the Centre. All over the large hall people had set up stalls selling books or clothing and offering tickets for concerts and shows. We sat in for a few minutes at their Monday lecture and then were ushered out to meet some more people including their President and offered yet more eats! I was impressed to learn that they were the second University of the Third Age to be founded, and this under Communism and against initial opposition. We also learnt that they lay great emphasis on welfare work amongst their members, on weekly medical check-ups and on health education and physical activities, such as walking.

In the evening we invited members of the group to join us for a special private Chopin recital by a talented music student at the Myślewicki Palace.

On our last day after some shopping and visiting the castle apartments, we were divided into two groups and escorted on two trams out to lunch at the flats of two of their members. Cecilia, my hostess, had invited more friends to meet us and had cooked a delicious multi-course meal. We stayed there chatting, eating and drinking till after five! The impression we got was that, by our standards, life for most of them was hard but happy. Cecilia was more fortunate than most in that she had managed to buy her flat and had won a car in a lottery. The professionals amongst them, doctors, dentists, etc., had managed to travel in spite of expense and difficulty.

Meeting people like them and being privileged to share their lives for a brief time was, on its own, enough to answer the question, "Why Warsaw?"

*Gill Sidwell, U3A in London*

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## Where can we get.....?

### U3A Start-up Leaflets

*Starting up a Travel Group*

*How to organise Outings and Visits*

*How to start an Architecture Group*

*How to start an Archaeology Group*

*The History and Archaeology of Roman Britain*

These leaflets are available from National Office, 26 Harrison Street, London WC1 8JG at 40p each, 3 for £1 and 8 for £2.50 plus postage (20p up to 4 and 31p up to 8 leaflets).

### Victoria and Albert Museum

The V & A has published a programme of courses and study days, some of which are held in March and April, with concessionary fees for senior citizens. Also available is a leaflet, *What's on at the V & A: a programme of drop-in activities*. Gallery talks for adult groups can be arranged on a variety of general and specialised subjects. Contact the Education Department at the V & A, South Kensington, London SW7 2RL (020 7942 2197)

*Information on the economy*

Treasury Enquiry Unit, Room 46/2,  
H.M. Treasury, Parliament Street,  
London SW1P 3AG (020 7270 4860)  
Public Enquiry Office, Bank of England,  
Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8AH

(020 7601 4878)

**More archaeology websites** (see also page 3)

The Archaeology Institute of America has pointers to a wide range of sites; good reconstructions of 'bog people' for example – [www.archaeology.org/main.html](http://www.archaeology.org/main.html)

Fordham University have an index of mediaeval and ancient history source books, web resource lists – as long as your arm – [www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook1.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook1.html)

*And finally ...*

Anything of interest to you can probably be found if you use the Ask Jeeves search engine at

[www.askjeeves.com](http://www.askjeeves.com)

.....perhaps, you know a better one.

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## ***NATIONAL CONFERENCE ♦ NORWICH 4 – 6 SEPTEMBER 2000***

The U3A Conference 2000 will be held at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, from Monday to Wednesday, 4 – 6 September 2000 and will concentrate on the primary aims of the Third Age Trust; hence the Conference title, *LEARNING – FIRST AND LAST*.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 5 September. It is hoped that there will be debates covering topics such as study group support, expanding the Resource Centre and IT activities. Other subjects to be considered include the need to increase the recognition of and assistance for older learners from Government and local authorities. Correspondence from members and many comments at previous Conferences have requested this emphasis.

The University of East Anglia campus is set in pleasant parkland, 3 miles from the centre of Norwich, where all the Conference activities will be located. Residential and catering facilities are excellent, with several restaurants and bars. The Sainsbury Centre of Visual Arts, a Sports Centre, shops and banks add to the attractions of the campus. A committee drawn from several U3As in East Anglia and the NEC is organising a Social Weekend of excursions and entertainments to precede the Conference, and activities on the Monday and Tuesday evenings.

U3A members can choose to stay for 2, 3, 4, or 5 nights in the residential accommodation (which could include the Social Weekend), or book for day attendance for the Conference on Monday to Wednesday. SAGA will be handling the booking arrangements for accommodation and transport. A fuller description of the Conference arrangements will be found in the next issue of *U3A News* (formerly *Third Age News*), due out in early March, and will show how to obtain a Conference booking form.

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## **STUDY DAYS ♦ LEADERS' DAYS ♦ FIELD STUDIES**

**LEADERS' DAYS:** No fee. Lunch provided. Apply to National Office for booking and details.

**Course Organisers:** 23 February in Sheffield, a repeat of the London meeting in January.

**Course Organisers:** 2 March in Carlisle, a repeat of the London meeting in January.

**Creative Writing:** 7 March at The Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London.

Keith Richards, Sophie Deakin-Smith, and Shirley Thew will explore ways of encouraging writing.

**Archaeology:** 16 May at The Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London. A follow-up to the day in Bristol last autumn with time for in-depth discussion on running courses.

**FIELD STUDIES:** see SOURCES No. 6 (Nov. 99) for details or contact Network Co-ordinator.

**Bird Watching:** Joy Soanes 01904 655842 **Geology:** Isabel Markham 0181 850 1337

**Environmental Issues:** John Turley 01978 262470 **Walks:** Bob Boyd 01689 826457

### **STUDY DAYS:**

**Agriculture:** 28 March at Barnstaple, North Devon on "Countryside at the Crossroads."

Fee £3.00. Apply to Margaret Summersbee, 43 Bay View Road, Northam, Bideford EX39 1BH

**Art Appreciation:** 5 April at the Barber Institute, Birmingham. Fee £20.00.

Details of the programme and method of application are with each U3A Secretary.

**Languages:** 13 April, this year's annual seminar at Bournemouth Fee £5.00

Apply to Gloria Blackburne, Flat 20, Abbey Mill, Church Street, Bradford-on-Avon BA15 1HB

### **CONFERENCES:**

**Study Days at Chester:** 13-16 July on a variety of subjects, now including Science. Please book as soon

as possible if you hope to come. Apply to the National Office for details and booking.

**U3A/Plymouth University Conference:** 24-25 June. "Shaping the new Millennium" will consider international issues affecting Europe and the UK, and expected social, economic, environmental, technological and cultural changes.

Day fee £10.00. Dinner B&B £33.00. Details and booking form from local U3A Secretary in February.

### ***In the next issue***

It has been the practice of SOURCES to focus on one or two subjects, but not exclusively, in each issue: No. 2 (Nov.98) Science, No. 3 (Feb.99) History, No. 4 (May 99) Literature and Creative Writing, No. 5 (Aug.99) Music, No. 6 (Nov.99) Art and Craft, and this issue, No. 7 (Feb.00) Archaeology and Travel.

The next issue will be mailed in May and will focus on health and medicine, psychology and social psychology. Contributions are invited from U3As telling how their groups and courses approach these subjects and where to find the best material for study.

***All contributions must be sent to SOURCES at the National Office by Friday, 31 March.***

*Some U3As receive support from their local authorities through grants or free accommodation. Maybe others would benefit from reading a short report on how this could help them build up their activities.*

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